**Agricultural Writers South Africa**

**Pro forma nomination form 2024**

**Farmer of the Year**

Nominations MUST be made based on this pro forma to ensure it is uniform and the judges can meaningfully compare the candidates with each other. Nominations deviating from this will not be accepted.

The new pro forma aims to measure candidates based on sustainability. Sustainability refers to how someone farms so that it enables him/her to achieve success in all areas but can still continue to farm successfully and at the same time manage the land and farming in such a way that his/her descendants will also be able to farm on it.

Point 1 describes the candidate's farming, while points 2 to 6 are the five pillars on which sustainability rests. The one cannot do without the other:

• Maintaining and increasing biological productivity.

• Reduction of risks to ensure greater security.

• Maintenance and management of the natural resources.

• Economic viability.

• Social acceptability and accountability.

**The nominee**

Name:

Farm Name:

District:

Telephone and mobile number:

E-mail address:

**The following must accompany the nomination:**

a. At least five good photographs of the nominee, including a clear profile picture. A video can accompany the nomination.

b. Complete residential address, email address, telephone number and mobile phone number.

c. A 300-word summary of the nominee.

***No nomination will be received after the cut-off date.***

# The farming operations *(10 points)*

## For background, fully describe the nature and scope of the farming enterprise to enable the judges to focus on the candidate's distinctiveness.

## State his/her qualifications, either degrees/diplomas or other courses and in-service training that he/she has undergone to better qualify him/her for his/her farming.

# Biological productivity *(25 points)*

## Describe how the candidate maintains and increases the farming's biological productivity, in other words, how successfully the candidate uses the available land to produce. In the case of a livestock farmer, this refers, among other things, to the calf percentage, weaning mass, inter-calving period and mortalities. Apply it through percentages and compare it with the accepted limit values.

## In the case of a seed, fruit or vegetable farmer, the nominator must refer to yields per hectare and other relevant norms for the industry and compare them with the industry's accepted norms.

# Hedging against all forms of risk *(25 points)*

## Identify all the risk factors that can have an impact on the company.

## What steps are taken by the candidate to lower the farming risk and thereby provide greater security to the farming operations?

## What sets the process in motion for the farmer to consider something as a risk?

## Is he/she a risk taker or a risk avoider?

## Is he/she reactive or proactive?

## How does the candidate adapt to changing circumstances?

## Mention changes that also play a role in the farmer's actions.

## Describe what he/she does to keep up to date with the changes and in what way he/she transforms the challenges into opportunities.

# Maintenance and management of natural resources *(25 points)*

## How does the candidate maintain and improve the farm's natural resources?

## If the candidate is a livestock farmer, how is the carrying capacity determined, measured and applied? In the case of a seed farmer, which cultivation methods are followed and why?

## How does the farmer determine land use patterns, for example, using satellite technology (GPS, GIS, etc.)?

# Economic viability *(25 points)*

## Describe the candidate's way of working in farming to ensure economic viability.

## Describe how the candidate developed as a farmer, in other words, how he/she built up and expanded the farming since he/she became involved in it.

## If he/she inherited, how did he/she add value to the farming and grow it further?

## Emphasise the successes in farming. Fully describe his/her financial management systems and results.

## What are the strategic objectives?

## How often is it evaluated and redefined?

## What forms of diversification occur in farming? In other words, where is the company placed within the value-added chain?

# Social responsibility and guardianship (10 marks)

## How does the candidate ensure the farming operation is socially acceptable and responsible?This concerns, among other things, own and workers' compensation, support for workers and their families on a social level, support for the community and empowerment.

## Describe what the candidate means to the industry/industries and organised agriculture. In other words, what is his/her involvement in the community?

## Mention recognition that he/she already received and achievements that he/she achieved.

## Indicate to what extent he/she is accepted as a mentor by fellow farmers.

## Which community projects has he/she already started and what is their impact?

## Fully describe the farmer's relationship with his/her workers, the labour practices, compensation structure, housing and assistance with personal and community matters.